1: Dube E-5 (1951-52) 1955 AW17 Telugu AW17

THE CHANGING SCENE

Changes in tools and technical processes are also important. Barbers, carpenters, blacksmiths and goldsmiths are now using factory-made tools and instruments. The village tailor has a sewing machine. It is significant that there has been no mentionable change in agricultural tools. In farming methods, however, some changes have taken place. Improved seeds are being used by many cultivators. The value of green manure is realized by an increasing number of agriculturists. Oil cakes, castor, ammonium sulphate, and a special concoction of chemical fertilizers known as 'paddy mixture' are now being used. More attention is given to growing vegetables. A greater percentage of cultivators is now growing 'cash crops'.

Communications too have now improved. Many persons take advantage of the bus service. There are six private bicycles in the village. A shop-keeper has four more which can be hired. The headman of the village has recently bought a 1928 model Ford. The traditional bullock carts are still largely used for transportation of goods, and also for travel.

The opening of a small dispensary in the village, and the availability of excellent facilities of modern medical treatment in the city have considerably changed the attitude of the people towards diseases and their treatment. Although people still believe that smallpox and cholera are the result of the wrath of two goddesses and annually organize ceremonies in their honour on behalf of the village, the old fear of vaccination and inoculation has now practically disappeared. People no longer run away from the village on the appearance of the vaccinator, nor do they offer him bribes or threats for being spared the cruelty of vaccination. Divination, protective magic, chants and spells are all still employed to ward off disease and difficulty, but at the same time increasing use is being made of modern medicine. Age-old prescriptions of indigenous herbs are generally used for fevers and other common ailments. But when the disease takes a serious turn the patient may even be removed to a hospital in the city. Injections which were greatly feared a few decades ago are now eagerly sought as they are believed to give quick and sure relief from all ailments. Some people keep a limited stock of some of the popular and cheap patent medicines. Medicines for virility and strength prominently advertised in newspapers are obtained by post.

The social structure of the community is basically the same,

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AW1 India
Telugu AW17

242 [782] The people think that these are all visitations of goddesses and accordingly offer a sheep, or pig, or a white hen or cock as a sacrifice.

232 *Cattle diseases—Kurama.*—The ox or cow when it suffers from this refuses food, shivers, suffers as from cold. *Domma*—Shivering, swelling of the stomach and purging. *Chalidomma*—Swelling starts at some portion of the body, extends to the neck and proves fatal. *Nalupu jadyam*—Purging and dying. *Gundasala*—The heart bursts in this. *Musara*—Ulceration all over and refusal of food.

Medicines are prepared out of omum, assafœtida, turmeric, pepper, onions and like articles and some medicinal herbs found in woods and forests.

Up till now no assistance has been given by the Agricultural department.

313 Fuel is obtained from the jungle near by. Wood for building and implements is obtained from the Avulapalle forest, a magnificent forest abounding in good game, belonging to the zamindari itself. The distance from here is about a dozen miles.

342 *The village.*—The depressed castes live in circular thatched huts. Everything is dirty inside and out. The dwelling is circular consisting of but one room which serves for all purposes. Generally the diameter of the house is about 22 feet.

There are thirty houses in the caste village; three are terraced, none tiled, one earthen-roofed, all the rest thatched.

[437] The ryots occasionally exchange lands to get their lands continuous. Field huts are used only at harvest time.

463 [286] 465 *Subsidiary industries.*—There are no weavers at all now. Handspinning was once practised when cotton was raised locally, but abandoned about thirty-five years ago, because cotton is no longer raised.

Crafts.	Working time.	Earnings.	Remarks.
Blacksmith ...	About 75 per cent.	Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 per annum.	He does not work every month. It is at harvest times that he gets mamuls called *thirijamu* and *mera*. These amount to about three or four putties; 1 putti = 160 Madras measures [i.e., 400 lb.—Ed.]
Dommara ...	Almost always.	Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 per annum.	Makes wooden combs.
Potter	Do.	Rs. 70 or Rs. 80 per annum.	Not only sells to others, but also gets the same mamuls as the blacksmith from the ryots at harvest time.

438 *Village trade.*—Wood required for agricultural and industrial purposes is purchased in the forests belonging to the zamindari above mentioned. Iron implements are purchased in Punganur, or Chouldepalli.

The nearest market is Kandur, a village 3 miles off.

Whatever is grown in the village and required for household purposes is retained by the villagers. The rest is all sold.

361 489 There is a local road which passes by this village running from Somala to Kalikiri. This local road connects with the trunk road running from Punganur to Chandragiri. The nearest railway

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AW1 India
Telugu AW17

station is Kalikiri, at a distance of 10 miles. The nearest commercial centres are Kandur and Kalikiri, where grain, tamarind and jaggery are sold in large quantities.

Economic condition.—The customary rates of wages are—in money—men 3 annas per day; women 2 annas per day; in kind—three measures of paddy or ragi per day and a small quantity of food in the afternoon. The measure is half a Madras measure.*

Or a man may be given two annas and a meal.

Current prices—

Rice	...	...	...	8 local measures for a rupee	
Ragi	...	...	...	10	„ „
Sazzulu	...	...	...	10	„ „
Cholam	...	...	...	9	„ „
Tamarind		...	...	As. 2–6 per viss.*	
Jaggery	...	...	...	As. 6	„
Chillies	...	...	...	As. 8	„

The village debt is estimated at Rs. 2,000.

There have been no good rains for the past three or four years and consequently there have been successive failures of crops. The ryot has therefore been obliged to borrow money for buying bulls, and grain, and to enable him to pay his rent. For these reasons there is much indebtedness in the village.†

There are only two families who have liberated themselves to a small extent from debt once incurred.

There is no Co-operative Credit Society.

Wet lands sell at Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,000 per acre, dry lands at Rs. 40 to Rs. 60. It is only recently that the prices have gone up. Formerly they were selling at a lower rate, the maximum rate being about Rs. 500 per acre. The rise in price is due to the fact that there are more ryots than land and demand is unsatisfied.

Expenditure on religious festivals.—At one annual festival, called Paleti Gangamma Jathara, about Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 are spent. Nothing has been spent on new temples in recent years and no advantage is taken of the Agricultural Loans Act.

Sanitary condition.—Neither malaria, cholera, plague nor small-pox are prevalent. For ordinary ailments people get themselves treated by two native doctors in Kandur, two others in Somala at a distance of 4 miles and one other there in the village itself. For more serious diseases people have recourse to the hospitals at Sodam at a distance of 12 miles, or at Vayalpad or Piler, at distances of about 20 miles.

Though there are two Muhammadan families they do not observe purdah.

Night-soil is not allowed to accumulate in the village, but the sullage water is allowed to sink into the ground in every house. In some houses there are cesspools where this collects, and pollutes the air around.

For drinking purposes water is got out of a well about half a furlong from the end of the village nearest to it. For other domestic purposes, only two houses, one Brahman and one Kapu, have wells in their backyards. All the others get water from the well above mentioned for all purposes. The water in the two wells mentioned is brackish.

---

* It follows that one local measure of paddy weighs about 1¼ lb.; of rice, ragi, sazzalu or cholam about 1¾ lb. A viss in Madras is a little over 3 lb.—Ed.

† In 1917 there were good rains—vide under Gownipalle, Festivals.